



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Thursday, October 31, 2002

Flu Clinics Open To All Adults Effective November 1

Public flu clinics will be open to all persons 18 years and older beginning November 1. Health officials had reserved the October clinics for those people at highest risk from flu. Numerous flu clinics will be conducted through December by member organizations of the Monroe County Adult Immunization Coalition.

“With many of our older and more vulnerable residents now immunized, we’re now encouraging other adults to get their flu shot,” said Dr. Nancy Bennett, Monroe County Deputy Health Director. Shots will be given at the Health Department on Saturday, November 2, between 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Residents may call an information line - **234-9600** - for the locations of all clinics in Monroe County. The complete list of clinics through mid-December is available on the county’s web site at: **www.MonroeCounty.gov**.

Unlike the past several years when significant delays were experienced, vaccine shipments to local providers have arrived on time this year. Medicare and most HMOs cover the cost of the flu shot; otherwise a fee of \$20 is charged.

The flu, or influenza, is a respiratory illness that is easily spread from person to person. Symptoms include: fever, sore throat, muscle ache, chills and headache. Peak influenza activity usually occurs from December through March. Approximately 20,000 people die from flu, or its complications, each year in the United States. Sporadic flu activity has been reported in several states this year.

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*For further information, call:
Communications & Special Events at 428-2380
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